



It has been a fantastic start to the canola season. Anzac Day usually marks the start of canola sowing and on Anzac Day up to 30 millimetres of rain fell across the region. Growers from Dubbo, down to Victoria saw good rainfall overnight and moisture profiles were perfect for planting canola.

This week tractors have been out in full force and the cold weather after the rain has subdued the grasshoppers in the region. Unfortunately, there has been evidence of damage from locusts in the region. Some growers are looking at re-sowing some crops, and are waiting to see if others will re-emerge. Others are delaying sowing in the hope that the locusts will soon disperse. Along with the good break for sowing comes the task of monitoring for pests that could pose a risk to crops and the wait for the predicted explosion of locusts in the spring.

Whilst we have seen an increase in seed sales of pulse crops, mainly due to depressed cereal grain markets, there are many growers that have stuck to their usual cropping rotation. This is so paddocks become sustainable and to improve soil health. Many growers still have tonnes in the storage system, and with wheat prices low at the present are looking for the best prices available to cease paying warehouse storage charges. This is not an easy task at the moment as growers are still reluctant to forward contract cereal grains, but the last two weeks have seen a distinct increase in forward contracts for 2010/2011 season canola.

The High Oleic Canola program has gone from strength to strength, and we already have a waiting list of growers for next year's seed. The response to the program has been excellent. The High Oleic Canola (HOLL) has in most cases been planted and emerged, and so far the results are good.

If you would like to participate in the High Oleic Canola program, please contact your local AGA representative, and we can include you for next season. With only 5 months to go until canola harvest, planning ahead and registering your interest in High Oleic next season will be a benefit.

For further details contact your local Australian Grain Accumulation,
Field Merchant – Karen Cox, Parkes (02) 6861 1101